

1705. During the same period the matchlock was superseded by the fusil, firelock, or flintlock. At first only a small number in each regiment had firelocks ; by the end of Charles II's reign all the Guards were armed with them ; by the Revolution about half of the soldiers in other regiments carried them, and there were some regiments known as fusileers entirely armed with them. The proportion of fusils in use continued during the war with France, though the matchlock was not entirely disused at the close of the century. ' Under William's rule/ concludes Colonel Walton, ' the English infantry became perhaps the best armed in Europe/ *

Another subject on which the History must be corrected and supplemented from Colonel Walton's book is the administration of the army. Macaulay tells us emphatically that it was bad, but nothing more. ' Under James the courtiers took bribes from the colonels ; the colonels cheated the soldiers ; the commissaries sent in long bills for what had never been furnished : the keepers of the magazines sold the public stores and pocketed the price. But these evils, though they had sprung into existence and grown to maturity under the government of Charles and James, first made themselves severely felt under the government of William/ ² Instances of various abuses are given

later. Nowhere however is there an account of the manner in which the army was organised and governed. Indeed, when Macaulay wrote, the subject had been so little investigated that there would have been difficulty in putting together a good account of it from printed sources, though the War Office papers would have supplied the

¹ Clifford Walton, *History of the British Standing Army, A.D. 1660 to 1700* (1894), pp. 427, 428, 431, 433. -Ill, 1368-9 (xi).